

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 6, I missed rollcall vote 516, final passage of the FY 2001 Transportation appropriations conference report (H.R. 4475). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". I also missed rollcall vote 517, the rule for H.R. 3244, the Sexual Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and rollcall 518, final passage of H.R. 3244. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

RECOGNITION OF JAMES G. MILLS, THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize James G. Mills of Fort Wayne, Indiana in my district for his recent election as chairman of the board for the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. Mr. Mills was elected on June 17, 2000 and officially took over in late July.

In 1985, Mr. Mills joined Three Rivers Federal Credit Union as president and chief executive officer. Three Rivers provides important options for my constituents and as such has been an asset to Northeast Indiana. Between 1985 and 1995, the number of branches increased from one to eight with the number of member companies increasing from 125 to more than 700. Individual membership soared from 15,000 to 65,000 plus.

Along the way, Mr. Mills worked to promote the growth of the community as well as the Credit Union. In 1995, Three Rivers FCU was able to secure Indiana's first Community Development Credit Union Expansion Charter to open the field of membership and provide financial services to less served parts of the community. This innovation was the result of his near two-years of work with local city officials, the economic development offices of Fort Wayne, and the National Credit Union Administration. Most recently, Mr. Mills facilitated an initiative in the area of inner city financial literacy training for an under-served group that also happens to be a new part of the FCU's field of membership. I strongly commend him for his efforts to empower those who are less economically advantaged through knowledge and the broadening of financial services.

In the role of Chairman of NAFCU, Mr. Mills will be leading the trade association that represents federal credit unions. I look forward to working with him and America's credit unions as we work to benefit families and communities, and congratulate him on this national recognition.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI RICHARD HAMMERMAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Richard Hammerman of Congregation B'Nai Israel, Toms River, New Jersey, who is celebrating his 25th year with the synagogue.

Much of B'Nai Israel's vibrancy and outreach comes from the influence of Rabbi Hammerman, who came to B'Nai Israel in 1975. He is credited by many as the driving force which helped make the synagogue as it is today.

Through the years, the congregation has enjoyed many additions and accomplishments, among them the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, the stained glass windows depicting scenes from Israel, and the synagogue expansion in 1983. Despite difficulties during the early days, the congregation persevered, and today it is an active member of both the Jewish community and the community at large, including a thriving Talmud Torah which sends all Hebrew high school graduates to Israel, participates in community programs to provide moderate housing, and in an interfaith group to help house the homeless.

Rabbi Hammerman is described as a "real mensch," a person who genuinely cares about each member of the congregation. He is considered a man of the highest ethics, one who is warm and welcoming.

Having grown from 225 members upon Rabbi Hammerman's arrival to its current membership of 500, his warmth and caring are cited as the strength behind the success of Congregation B'Nai Israel, and for the respect the congregation has earned from the community.

May Rabbi Richard Hammerman, Rabbi of Congregation B'Nai Israel, continue to serve the community for many years to come.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEWART MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stewart Middle School of Norristown, Pennsylvania on their 75th Anniversary. On September 8, 1925, Stewart Junior High opened its doors to 916 pupils and has been a model of academic excellence for the past 75 years.

The current Stewart Middle School was the first junior high school in the Norristown School District and currently enrolls more than 650 students from diverse backgrounds. In 1926, the first Student Council was established and continues to provide real leadership and community involvement for the students.

In 1981, Stewart was selected as one of only two schools statewide to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's School Climate Improvement Project and has been recognized by the PDE and the Senate of Pennsylvania for its efforts to improve math-

ematics and reading scores. As an advocate of combining academic and special area instruction, Stewart Middle School applies a "school within a school" concept to learning. This allows students to learn in smaller classes with an emphasis on group learning. Stewart should serve as a model for schools throughout the country.

I am pleased to celebrate this momentous occasion with the Stewart Middle School community. They have much to be proud of during their first 75 years and I expect even more accomplishments to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF ITALIAN FESTA AND THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE EAST BAY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Italian-American Federation of the East Bay, for its presentation of the 9th Annual Italian Festa, which took place on September 16 and 17, 2000, at Jack London Square in Oakland, California.

Italian Festa is one of the largest celebrations of Italian heritage and culture on the West Coast. This year's visitors listened to accordion, opera and other traditional Italian music, while watching costumed dancers perform. Visitors were also treated to a demonstration by Tony Gemignani, the "World Pizza Toss King" and a food demonstration with Andy LoRusso, "the Singing Chef."

A photographic display detailing the Italian legacy in the California gold fields provided a fascinating local history lesson for visitors. "Nostra Storia—The Italian Legacy in the Mother Lode" tells the story of one of the earliest and most important, but often unrecognized, groups of people to settle in the California foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

In the tradition of Italian street festivals, Italian Festa provided a great selection of Italian specialties such as sausage and peppers, biscotti, polenta, Sicilian pastries, hand-made ice cream, tortas and cannoli. The food was prepared in the kitchen of the East Bay's Social Clubs, which donate a portion of the profits from beverage sales to a scholarship foundation for Italian-American Students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Italian-American Federation of the East Bay for its efforts to celebrate Italian and Italian-American culture and history. On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District, I congratulate the Foundation on the great success of the 9th Annual Italian Festa, and wish the organization luck in continuing to educate the community about Italian heritage and culture for years to come.